

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A fireplace grate assembly, comprising:

a grate having substantially parallel spaced bars adapted for supporting a log;  
a plurality of legs connected to said grate and extending downwardly

therefrom, thereby supporting said grate away from a fireplace floor on which said grate is placed; and

an accessory positioned on top of said grate, said accessory comprising two elongate members positioned across a portion of said parallel spaced bars, said elongate members being spaced apart and connected to one another by at least one connecting member.

2. The fireplace grate assembly of claim 1, wherein said elongate members are substantially parallel to one another.

3. The fireplace grate assembly of claim 2, wherein said connecting member comprises a pair of spaced bars disposed between said elongate members, said pair of spaced bars being substantially orthogonal to said elongate members.

4. The fireplace grate assembly of claim 1, wherein said elongate members comprise cylindrical steel stock of diameter between 3/8 inches to 7/8 inches and whose centers are spaced apart between 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches.

5. The fireplace grate assembly of claim 4, wherein said connecting member comprises a pair of spaced bars disposed between said elongate members, said pair of bars being substantially orthogonal to said elongate members and being formed from the same stock.

6. The fireplace grate assembly of claim 5, wherein said connecting members are welded to said elongate members.

7. The fireplace grate assembly of claim 1, wherein said parallel spaced bars are spaced at least 2.5 inches center to center.

8. The fireplace grate assembly of claim 1, wherein said parallel spaced bars of said grate form a gap of at least 2 inches therebetween, said connecting member positioned intermediate two of said bars.

9. The fireplace grate assembly of claim 1, wherein said connecting member

comprises a pair of spaced bar members disposed between said elongate members, said pair of bar members being substantially orthogonal to said elongate members and being formed from the same stock.

10           16.     The fireplace grate assembly of claim 9, further comprising a synthetic firelog resting on said accessory, said firelog having a rectangular or cylindrical shape and being supported by said elongate members and said pair of bars, whereby said firelog burns longer than if placed on said grate without said accessory.

15           11.     A method of burning a synthetic firelog with a fireplace grate of the type having substantially parallel spaced bars adapted for supporting one or more natural logs, and a plurality of legs connected thereto and extending downwardly therefrom, thereby supporting the grate away from a fireplace floor on which the grate is placed, said method comprising:

                  positioning an accessory on top of and across a portion of the spaced bars of the grate, the accessory comprising two elongate members spaced apart and connected to one another by at least one connecting member;

                  placing a synthetic firelog on top of the accessory, the firelog aligned substantially lengthwise with the accessory, thereby substantially sandwiching the accessory between the grate and the firelog; and

                  igniting the firelog, whereby the firelog burns longer without breaking apart than if the accessory were not used.

20           12.     The method of claim 11, wherein the substantially parallel spaced bars of the grate are spaced at least 2 inches apart.

                  13.     The method of claim 12, wherein the substantially parallel spaced bars of the grate are spaced at least 3 inches apart.

25           14.     The method of claim 11, wherein the elongate members of the accessory are substantially parallel to one another.

                  15.     The method of claim 11, wherein the log is positioned over and supported by the elongate members.

                  16.     The method of claim 11, wherein the log is positioned over and supported by the connecting member.

30           17.     The method of claim 16, wherein the connecting member comprises a pair

of connecting members.